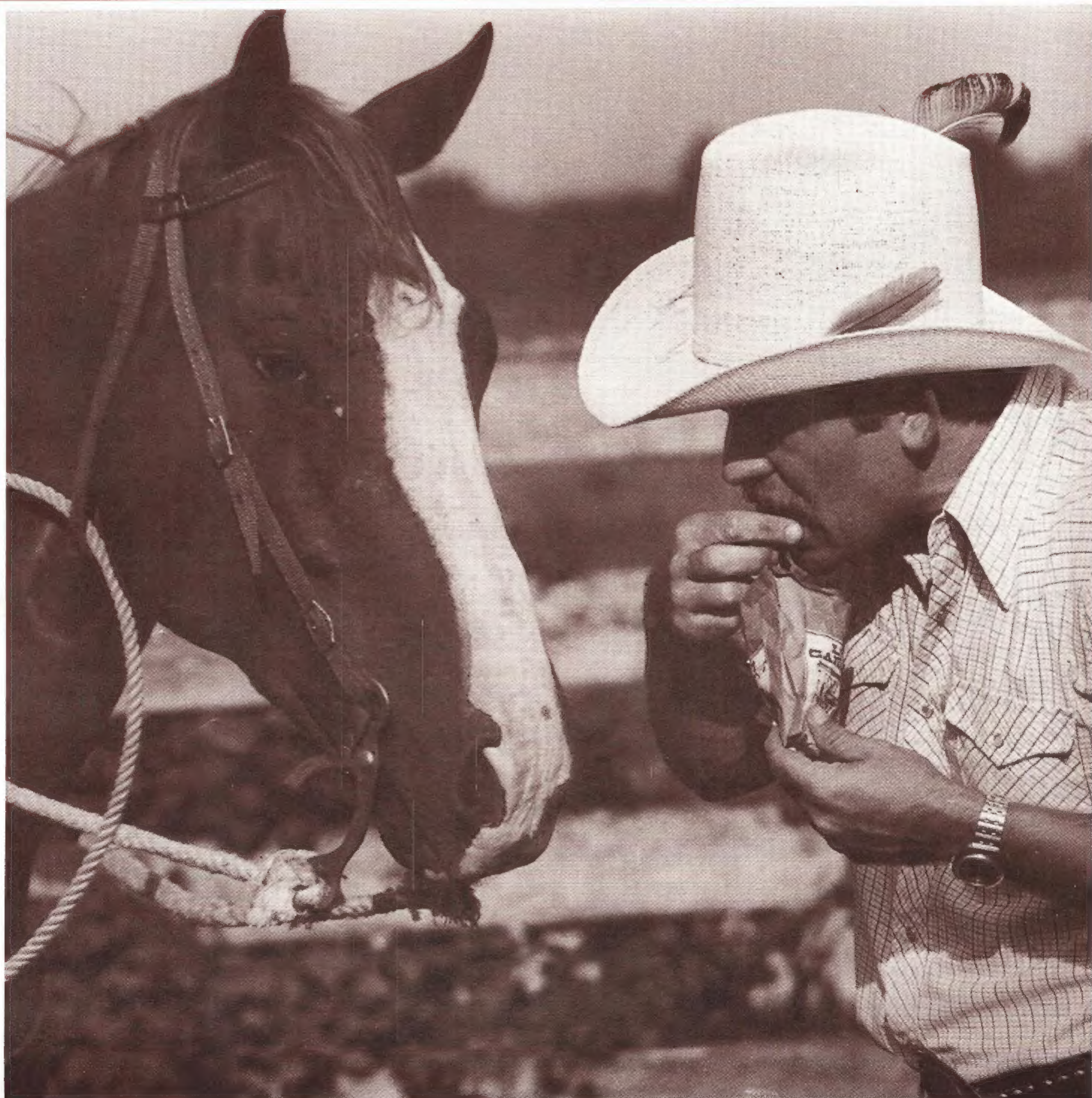


PLAIN TALKS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER
1980



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

Joe Budd and John Wayne, his 6-year-old quarter horse, share a chew of tobacco during a break in a daily workout.

Budd, a Beaumont real estate representative who has been with the company 11 years, says his favorite horse enjoys the tobacco as much as he does.

Plain Talks Correspondent Joe Russian, also of Beaumont, took the cover shot, as well as additional photographs shown on pages 10 and 11.

Jim Stelly
Gulf States Utilities
Orange, Texas

Dear Mr. Stelly:

The Beautification Committee of the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate you for setting an example in the fine manner in which you always keep the outside appearance of your property. We realize that to maintain such beautifully landscaped grounds is both expensive and time-consuming. Your extra effort is appreciated by everyone who sees it, but we felt that you might enjoy hearing from someone to remind you how much you add to the pride of our community.

As you know, our committee just completed Project Pride II, which was successful in getting some negative areas cleaned and improved. We will continue to keep this effort going.

However, we feel it is equally important to let you know that those of you who always do an excellent job are appreciated.

Betty Harmon
Elrita Eikenhorst
Co-chairmen
Beautification Committee

Kathy Reed
Gulf States Utilities Co.
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Ms. Reed:

On behalf of the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board and the City of Port Neches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to speak to our senior citizens on saving energy.

The citizens appreciate your interest in their group. Thank you again for the interesting and informative program.

Sincerely,
Charles Norwood
City Manager
Port Neches, Texas

Aubrey Sprawls
Gulf States Utilities Co.
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Sprawls:

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your company on your efforts to help the poor and the elderly citizens in our community.

Your good judgment in hiring personnel such as Sue Kendall certainly enhances your company.

We at the Beaumont Association for Senior Citizens are appreciative of workshops done at our center by your staff.

If there is anything we can do to be of help in any way, we would consider it a privilege.

We try to be an advocate of the needs of our elderly and handicapped citizens in every way.

Sincerely,
Helen Kuhn
Executive Administrator
Beaumont Association of
Senior Citizens

PLAIN TALKS

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CONTENTS

PLAIN TALKS

Features

6 **GSU goes to school with the energy story.** Although Gulf States has long worked with school systems, the emphasis is now on energy education. This article explains what consumer service representatives—some of whom are former educators—are doing to spread the energy story.

8 **Company donates former bawdy house to heritage group.**

9 **Lanky square dance caller sashays across the country.** Lem Gravelle of Jennings admits he was reluctant to even try square dancing 21 years ago, but he liked it so much that both square dancing and his favorite hobby of calling square dances take up much of this line foreman's leisure time.

10 **Beaumont real estate representative doubles as a rodeo cowboy.** Both the cover photograph and the two pages of additional pictures show how important horses are to this young family.

13 **GSUer spreads gospel through 'chalk talks.'**

19 **Rosemary Vaught: Port Arthur retiree enjoys reminiscing, but considers self a 'vital part of today.'** A former secretary to the Port Arthur Division manager busies herself now with the Sideliners' Club and travel.

20 **GSU's CONTACT couple: Carliss and Les make it tough for other utilities to keep up with the Joneses**

21 **Travel accident plan offers protection for all employees.**

Meet your correspondent: Nina Wiley of Conroe.

Departments

4 **Newsbriefs—concise reports of company events**

12 **Service Awards—recognition of employees**

14 **Inside GSU—two pages of items of interest to employees**

16 **On the Move—listings of recent job changes**

23 **Comments—History shows that one vote can make a difference**



8



9



10



13

Aldridge joins company as vice president of human resources

With 24 years of employee relations experience to his credit, James R. Aldridge became GSU's vice president of human resources in mid-August.

He reports to President and Chief Operating Officer Norman Lee.

For the past two years, Aldridge has been corporate vice president of industrial relations and personnel for American Standard, Inc., a diversified manufacturing company based in New York.

A native of Mississippi, Aldridge was employed by General Electric for 22 years before joining American Standard. During his tenure with GE, he held various employee relations positions in Houston, Detroit, New York and Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Aldridge is married and has two teen-age children.

Serwan to succeed Murphy on retirement



Edward J. Serwan has been named vice president of production for Gulf States, and on December 1 will succeed J. R. "Pat" Murphy, who will retire as senior vice president of production after 44 years with the company.

Serwan joined GSU in November, 1978, as manager of fuels, and was promoted to vice president of fuels and materials in February, 1980.

Although Serwan's new position will not become effective until December 1, he began working with Murphy on September 1. Murphy's office is in Baton Rouge, but Serwan will continue to be based in Beaumont.

Serwan brings to his new assignment about 20 years' experience in the production area. Before coming to GSU, he served as corporate manager-environmental protection at BASF-Wyandotte Chemical Corporation's headquarters in Parsippany, New Jersey. Prior to that, he has served as works manager at the company's chemical complex in Geismar, Louisiana.

Serwan holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. Louis University. He and his wife, Jane Rita, consider Baton Rouge their hometown. They have four sons and one daughter.

A native of Hanover, Pennsylvania, Pat Murphy graduated from Williamson Trade School at Media, Pennsylvania. He also completed the Harvard University Advanced Management Program. He joined GSU in 1936 as a station clerk at Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge and became an officer of the company in 1967, when he was named vice president of personnel. He is currently a member of the GSU board of directors.

Murphy and his wife, Phyllis, have two daughters.

New officer to head computer applications

Anthony F. Gabrielle, who for four years has been vice president of computer applications for American Electric Power Company in New York, has assumed the same position with Gulf States.

Edward M. Loggins, GSU executive vice president for administrative services, said that Gabrielle's new position "reflects the grow-



ing importance of computers in all aspects of our business." The company is expanding and strengthening computer usage within the company, Loggins said.

Gabrielle has three degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including bachelors and masters degrees in electrical engineering and another masters degree in industrial management. He joined American Electric Power in 1950 and served in various engineering positions until 1960 when he became head of the Systems Planning Division in the High Voltage Section.

After being awarded an Alfred P. Sloan fellowship to study industrial management at MIT, Gabrielle went on to receive his second masters degree in 1961. In 1962, he became a staff engineer in the company's Systems Operations Division and in 1969 was promoted to assistant division head. The Systems Operations Division was responsible for operating a seven-state system of generating and transmission facilities.

Gabrielle became directly involved in the computer field in 1970 when he was named assistant vice president of computer applications. After six years in that job, he was named vice president of computer applications and assumed direct responsibility for integrating computers into various corporate activities and processes.

Gabrielle and his wife, Evelyn, have two sons.

Two youths given engineering awards

Two Lamar University freshmen in mechanical engineering have each been named the recipients of \$800 scholarships in conjunction with GSU's second annual cooperative scholarship program.

Kelly Fort (third from left), a recent graduate of Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School, and Ronald Womack (shown shaking hands), a recent graduate of French High School, were honored in a recent presentation ceremony at Lamar.



The scholastic honor is awarded in the form of \$800 per year per person for both the first and fifth years of study in the engineering program. Lamar University will receive \$200 per person per year for administering the program.

During their middle three years of study, the young men will alternate semesters of on-campus study with semesters of work as cooperative employees of Gulf States.

According to Tom Roby, GSU's director-employment, the awards are presented on an annual basis, with electrical engineering students receiving the awards one year and mechanical engineering majors receiving the awards the following year.

Candidates for the awards must be high school seniors who plan to enter either field. Recipients must attend Lamar University, where they must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5, Roby explains.

Also shown with the youths are (from left) Dr. William R. Wakeland, head of the Electrical Engineering Department at Lamar; Dr. Otto G. Brown, head of the school's Mechanical Engineering Department; Lilly Babino, GSU personnel representative; and Roby.

Look like yourself and love it, image specialist says

Consumer service representatives were urged to "look like yourself and love it" during day-long personal appearance and communications seminars held in Beaumont and Baton Rouge August 26 and 27.

That exhortation was made by Jane Segerstrom, an image specialist who wrote a book by that title.

According to Mrs. Segerstrom, who is a member of the national executive board of Home Economists in Business and who makes her home in Houston, "appearance can be the difference between success and failure." And, she continued, "Communicating visually means projecting a professional look, but also a look that is individual."



She urged the consumer service representatives, whose jobs hinge on contacts with the public, to consider their personalities and hair, face and eye coloring when selecting their wardrobe.

She also mentioned conservative dress as one of the keystones of success in business.

Among those attending the

Beaumont session were (from left) Carol Morris, a senior consumer service representative in Beaumont, and Roberta Plant, a consumer service representative in Conroe. The two paused to study a color wheel shown by Mrs. Segerstrom.

Crawford chairs American group to conference

Board Chairman Don Crawford led the U.S. delegation to the 11th World Energy Conference, which was held in Munich, West Germany, September 8-12.

About 400 of the estimated 5,000 conference attendees were sponsored by the U.S. National Committee, of which Crawford is chairman. The American delegation included representatives from government, academic institutions and virtually every energy industry.

The meeting, which had as its theme "Energy for Our World," focused on the international significance of secure long-term supplies. One of the highlights of the conference was a series of roundtable discussions involving representatives from various countries. Crawford represented the U.S. in the roundtable discussion on nuclear power.

"Energy is truly an international concern," Crawford said. "The World Energy Conference provides one of the few arenas where the world's governments, industries and academic communities can discuss mutual problems and possible solutions."

Among the approximately 60 countries represented at the conference were Australia, Canada, the Soviet Union, East Germany and many developing nations.

Founded in 1924, the World Energy Conference is the most representative non-governmental international organization concerned with energy-related science and economics. The last conference was in Istanbul in 1977.

GSU goes to school with the energy story

Not so long ago, when Gulf States went to school, the company was most often represented by home economists who taught teenagers how to utilize electricity in preparing meals and other homemaking activities.

While home living classes are still a target for GSU school work, the focus is now on teaching about energy conservation and the energy story is told to students from kindergarten to the 12th grade.

Consumer service representatives in each of the company's five divisions coordinate energy education efforts in hundreds of schools. Several of the GSUers were classroom teachers themselves before joining the company.

The system Consumer Services group headed by Jo Ann Smith, manager-consumer information, holds quarterly program development meetings where those working in the schools "share the wealth" of creative ideas, explains Jane Dufrene, consumer service representative of Lake Charles.

Besides Miss Dufrene, who taught for 12 years in Calcasieu Parish schools before joining Gulf States about a year ago, others working in schools include fellow Lake Charles Division consumer service representative Karen Landry, who covers the Lafayette area; Carol Morris, a senior consumer service representative from Beaumont; Lydia Brown, consumer service representative from Baton Rouge; and Roberta Plant and Connie Calfee, two consumer service representatives for the Western Division headquartered in Conroe.

Mrs. Morris has been with the company for four years and was a classroom teacher for seven years earlier. Miss Brown taught science in East Baton Rouge Parish schools for several years before coming to GSU last year. Miss Calfee has taught home eco-

nomics at the high school level, while Ms. Plant has been an assistant instructor in art at Sam Houston State University and was a home service advisor for Arkansas Power and Light for four years.



Carol Morris

While Brown, Dufrene and Morris work almost exclusively with the schools, other consumer service representatives—including Kathy Reed of the Port Arthur Division—must juggle their workday efforts among energy audits, school programs and other responsibilities.

Beginning with the lower grades, Miss Brown developed a unit for teachers in kindergarten through grade six aimed at introducing the youngsters to the energy situation and energy alternatives.

"My concept was to reach the teachers and let them be the multiplying effect, let them disseminate the information," Miss Brown reveals.

She had already enlisted the help of a curriculum writing team made up of several East Baton Rouge Parish teachers and one East Feliciana Parish teacher in developing an energy management unit for high school science and social studies classes. Those teachers tried out their own material on their classes in 1979—a

step that enabled them to "look at the kinks and try to straighten them out," she says.

They were so pleased with the results that the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board formally adopted the unit as a part of its curriculum in January.

Still, Miss Brown felt there was a need for an elementary energy unit.

Describing elementary teachers as "jacks of all trades," Miss Brown says she developed a curricula that brought together the best hands-on energy learning activities "from every source that we could tap"—including material and suggestions from other utility companies, other energy-related industries and the Department of Energy. The resultant material was compiled into a workbook for teachers featuring activity pages that could be copied and distributed to students.

Miss Brown uses other methods for calling school children's attention to the energy situation. During the spring, the company sponsored an energy awareness poster contest for kindergarteners through third graders. In addition to prizes for winners, the parish winner's poster was displayed on billboards at five different locations—expensive space donated by Louisiana State Rep. Kevin Reilly.

Miss Brown also conducts in-service workshops for teachers who teach energy courses.

Miss Dufrene spent this summer putting together a collection of energy activities for the middle schools—what she describes as "hands-on activities for exploratory or enrichment classes at the 6th through 8th grade level."

She, too, canvassed other sources for suggestions and materials.

"It covers the energy picture and gives the history of energy," she says. But the unit—which can

Lydia Brown (left) tells young Thiet Van Nguyen that he was the parish winner in a spring energy awareness poster contest. Looking on is his teacher.



run for as long as nine to 12 weeks if the teacher wishes—is also a lot of fun. Students may assemble collages, mobiles or murals, build a solar hot dog cooker, fly a kite or make a model of an oil derrick—all of which can underscore “serious” classroom lessons.

The material was placed in a teacher’s manual, parts of which can be reproduced for distribution to the youths.

In Beaumont, Mrs. Morris invested many hours into developing an energy conservation course for 11th and 12th grade homemaking classes that can be adapted

for use in vocational classes—including the traditionally male agriculture and building trades programs.

She introduced the seven-lesson unit to about 80 homemaking teachers from several southeast Texas counties during a mid-September workshop. Art work and other assistance for the unit was provided by Ms. Plant and Miss Calfee, while area teachers had field-tested some of the material earlier.

The unit, which can run from seven to 10 class days, introduces students to the energy situation

and suggests several activities, such as field trips to a mobile home factory and studying a blueprint of a home to see whether the design is energy efficient. The focus of their learning, however, is the home energy audit. A simplified version of Gulf States’ National Energy Watch checksheet is used to help the student investigate energy loss in his own home, and to see how important energy efficient building practices are.

In an introductory letter to parents of students enrolled in such classes, Mrs. Morris assures them that the study will involve giving the youths a basic understanding of the energy situation, letting them decide what energy conservation means, learning where and how energy is lost in a home and enabling them to become more aware of how to make their own home more energy efficient. The students, she told the parents, would also be taught how to develop good energy habits when using appliances and other equipment.

In the Western Division, Ms. Plant and Miss Calfee spent much of their time scheduling and coordinating energy education and conservation programs. They have stocked all school libraries in their division with a packet of fact sheets, curriculum guides and other materials that both teachers and students may use as references.

They also inform college students studying for home economics or elementary education degrees about the company’s energy information, conservation and safety teaching resources.

COMPANY DONATES FORMER BAWDY HOUSE TO HERITAGE GROUP

The 80-year-old building that once housed the Dixie Hotel, Beaumont's most famous bawdy house, was donated by Gulf States to the Beaumont Heritage Society during a special ceremony on August 25th.

GSU purchased the three-story structure, located at 232 Crockett Street, in 1977 when it was offered for sale and company officials thought a new corporate office building might someday be built in that block.

The second and third floors, where the Dixie was located, have been used as GSU storage space since 1977. When it was decided last year that the company's new Beaumont headquarters would be located on another site, the old Dixie building no longer was needed.

Company officials then offered the structure to the Heritage Society, which in the past had indicated an interest in preserving the building.

Board Chairman Don Crawford said he was delighted that the company could help save what the Heritage Society considers an architecturally valuable building.

"Earlier this year, we attempted to save the old Tevis Street power plant from demolition, but to no avail," Crawford said. "No one had the resources to preserve and restore that bit of Beaumont history. It is gratifying to see that the Dixie will not suffer the same fate."

During his presentation speech, Crawford noted that until the vice clean-up of the 1960s, the Dixie was the best-known of all the bawdy houses "in what was then a wild-and-woolly city."

Yvonne Craig, executive director of the Heritage Society, expressed appreciation for the donation.

"We're really excited about this gift," she said. "For several years,



the Heritage Society has tried to demonstrate the worth of rehabilitating old buildings. Now we are grateful for the opportunity Gulf States has given us to carry out this important project."

She said the first thing the historical group will do with the building, which is in the Downtown Commercial Historic District, will be to make certain it is structurally sound.

"Then we will do an in-depth study of the building, as well as every other building in that block," she said, adding that no further plans have been made.

In a 1977 SPARE Beaumont study, commissioned by the city, architect David Hoffman rated the building 80 on a scale of zero to 100 for "preservation priority." Hoffman, who is with Bell, Kelin and Hoffman Architects and Restoration Consultants of Austin, said the property was typical of Victorian Texas and part of a "magnificent facade row in the 200 block of Crockett." That is the only block left in Beaumont with cast-iron columns, Mrs. Craig said.

Hoffman dated the building's construction as shortly before the turn of the century, but there is no known record of when it was built. A 1901-02 city directory listed the address as the Kidd-Dickinson Saloon and by 1903 it was registered as the Millard Building.

In a 1904-05 city directory, the upstairs part of the building was listed as the Dean Apartments. It became the Millard Building Apartments in 1925 and was the Dixie Hotel from 1935 until 1961.

Although the building still is referred to as the Dixie, the upstairs was last known as the Annex Apartments, which is the name on the sign outside the building.

During the vice investigations of the early 1960s, the Dixie was identified in district court proceedings as a house of prostitution.

The three-story building includes more than 6,000 square feet. The ground floor of the property has held many commercial establishments and the current tenant—an office and stationer's business—is expected to remain there.

The second floor, which was remodeled in 1950, consists of one four-room apartment with private bath and 11 other rooms (two with private baths) as well as a powder room and one restroom. The third floor, which was not remodeled, has 14-foot ceilings and includes two two-bedroom apartments, 16 bedrooms with a lavatory in each, one toilet room and one bathroom.

Lanky square dance caller sashays across the country

by Susan Gilley Plain Talks Editor

During the early years of Lem Gravelle's 25-year marriage, the lean, six-foot-one Cajun played independent basketball and baseball during his leisure hours.

About the only participation for his young bride, Sue, "was looking through the wire fence," he recalls ruefully.

But that all changed 21 years ago when he and his wife tentatively enrolled in a square dance class. Now Gravelle is a square dance caller whose hobby has taken the couple to engagements across the nation, to Canada and Mexico and will take them to Europe this fall.

Gravelle, a Jennings line foreman who has worked for GSU since 1954, recalls that he was reluctant to try square dancing and agreed to attend the first class only after persuading Mrs. Gravelle not to ask him to go again if he did not enjoy the first session.

He laughingly describes his attitude as typical of a lot of men.

"The men don't realize the challenge," he explains, continuing, "That's what really grabs them. Square dancing is classified, technically, as a sport."

The Gravelles have found more advantages than disadvantages to their involvement in the sport.

"It's great exercise," says Gravelle. "In a three-hour dance, it's equivalent to jogging or walking 10 miles if you dance every tip." ("Tip" is square dance jargon describing the usual pattern of a dance—an initial "patter" or "hash" call, followed by a singing call and a brief break. Most tips last about four to five minutes.)

Even better, notes Gravelle, "Square dancing is growing in popularity because it is inexpensive and family-oriented. No liquor is served at a square dance."

Before the couple's son, Kent, 20, started attending the Univer-

sity of Southwest Louisiana in nearby Lafayette, he, too, participated in square dances.

To be such an avid fan of square dancing, Gravelle spends relatively little time on the dance floor—a fact that nevertheless has failed to stop Mrs. Gravelle from enjoying her turn on a square.

"Usually, wherever we go, everybody is so nice about saying, 'dance this tip'," she insists.

Gravelle and several other "national" or top-knotch traveling callers banded together into an organization they dubbed Callerlab, which was dedicated to standardizing calls into certain levels. Local callers were later invited to join the group.



Lem Gravelle performs a tip. He always wears Western-cut suits to his engagements.

As Gravelle explains, "If I go to Minnesota to call a dance, I don't want to break the floor down (call steps the dancers do not know), but I do want to challenge the dancers." Division of the various stages of advancement into basic (knowledge of about 38 calls), extended, mainstream, main-

stream plus one and advanced levels gives the visiting caller an even better chance to please the dancers. "My goal," Gravelle says, "is to call a real good dance every time that I call—one that the dancers will enjoy."

In addition to weekend engagements out of state, Gravelle regularly calls for three area clubs. On Tuesdays, he calls for an advanced club in Lafayette known as the Moonlighters, on Thursdays he calls for the Squareshooters, a mainstream club (knowledge of about 78 calls), and on Fridays he calls for the See-Saws, a Lafayette club at the mainstream plus one level (about 85 calls).

During the summer of 1979, the couple arranged a Caribbean cruise for a group of square dancers from Louisiana and Texas. The party, made up of the Gravelles and about 20 other couples who danced every afternoon, spent one week on the *U.S.S. Festivalle* cruising from Miami to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

Although the couple has also participated in workshops in Colorado and taken other trips, their planned excursion to Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Liechtenstein this October to take part in yet another workshop will be their first venture overseas.

They suggest that there is a rapport among devotees of the sport. Fellow square dancers frequently plan vacation trips or other travel around stops in towns where other square dancers live, the Gravelles explain. "Most bad folks weed themselves" out of clubs, asserts the bearded 45-year-old caller.

The talkative utility employee admits his involvement in square dancing helped him to overcome his shyness. "I know other people who were very shy people. Its brings them out," he affirms.

Beaumont real estate representative doubles as a rodeo cowboy

Text by Susan Gilley
Photos by Joe Russian



By day, Joe Budd resembles just about any other young, neatly dressed Gulf States' professional.

But most evenings and weekends, the 33-year-old Beaumont real estate representative dons Levis, a western-style shirt and boots to work out with John Wayne. In this case, the namesake of the late premier of the Hollywood Western is Budd's favorite quarter horse, a 6-year-old.

Now that Budd is a member of the Amateur Rodeo Cowboy Association and has successfully competed in events at several rodeos, he considers himself a bona fide cowboy, as distinguished from one who simply enjoys horseback riding. Riding remains a family pastime, however, with his wife, Debbie, and the couple's two daughters, 8-year-old Julie and 4-year-old Jamie, sharing in the fun.

The 11-year GSU veteran admits that his rodeo competition has led to some tumbles, but adds that he has promised his wife "that if I get hurt real bad, I'll give it up."

Despite that promise, Budd insists that a true horseman has to maintain authority over his steed. "You've got to realize you just

can't let yourself be defeated if you hit the dirt—you have to crawl back on," he warns.

Although Budd has worked with horses most of his life—including breeding and showing some—he has participated in rodeos for only about one and one-half years. He started competing as a saddle bronc rider, winning fourth place in his first rodeo in Phoenix, Arizona, where he was in a "buck-out" with top cowboys.

He switched to bareback bronc riding when he discovered the other event was not very popular in the Golden Triangle area. Now he calf ropes, too.

The blond, clean-shaven Gulf Stater admits rodeoing requires a commitment of time and patience.

During the off-season, Budd participates in rodeos about every other weekend. He attends rodeos nearly every weekend during the season, which can run as long as from mid-May until December.

Not only does Budd work with his horses every day, he also calf ropes almost daily. "A horse has got to have attention every day or he'll start to go down," he explains.



Budd is passing that philosophy along to his young daughters. Julie already owns a paint pony, and she has been given sole responsibility for keeping him in good shape.

Riding is only part of the story, the young father reveals. "You've got to medicate a horse's hurts and bathe them at least once a week, especially on hot days when they get pretty lathered up."

If Jamie continues to show an interest in riding, the family's youngest equestrienne will also receive a pony of her own on the first day of first grade. "By that time, they've had time to ride other horses and I can tell if they're really interested or if it's just a passing fad," Budd says.

Budd and several other area horse fanciers jointly lease an 80-acre spread on the outskirts of Beaumont that features stables, barns and pens.



Joe Budd practices roping.



Daughters Julie (left) and Jamie accompany their dad on a ride.

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years



Charles A. Glover
Division Operations
Gonzales

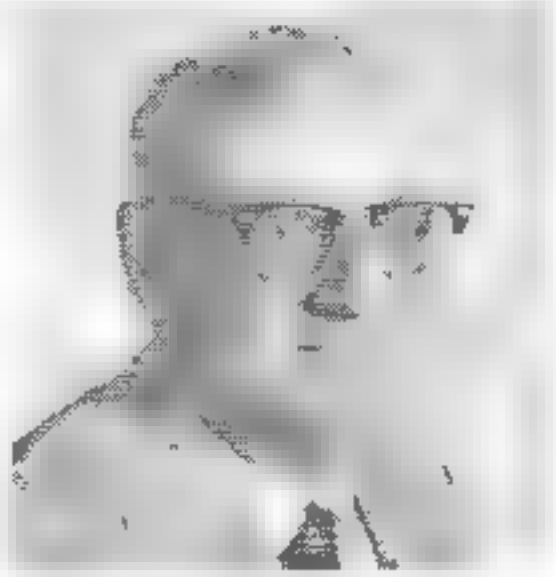


Clifford Meaux
Electric T&D
Winnie



E.R. Vick
Electric T&D
Beaumont

30
years



Daniel A. Fagg
Plant Production
Lewis Creek



Ted Meinscher
Executive Dept.
Port Arthur



William E. Richard
Executive Dept.
Lake Charles



Howard T. Trammel
Internal Audits
Beaumont



McQuiller Wingate
Building Services
Beaumont

20
years



Lonnie J. Cobb
System Production
Beaumont



William Hollins
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Jimmyly Syme
River Bend Nuclear
Beaumont

10
years



Ramon Blair
Electric T&D
Jennings



Charles Byars
Power Supply
Beaumont



Clifton Ellis Jr.
Plant Production
Sabine Station



Marshall L. Hawkes
Real Estate
Beaumont



John Hemby
Administrative
Services
Beaumont



Helen R. Kennedy
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Charles Landrum
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Herman Leasure
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Renee Lewis
Internal Audits
Beaumont



Jeanie McCall
System Engineering
Beaumont



Naomi Wright
Engineering Design
Beaumont



Ronald Minnich
Electric T&D
Lake Charles

GSUer spreads gospel through 'chalk talks'

by Doris Wallace

Plain Talks Correspondent

A combination of fluorescent chalk and black lights may not sound like the most traditional approach to worship, but Doug Blevins frequently uses such devices because he has found that church-goers retain more of what they see than what they hear.

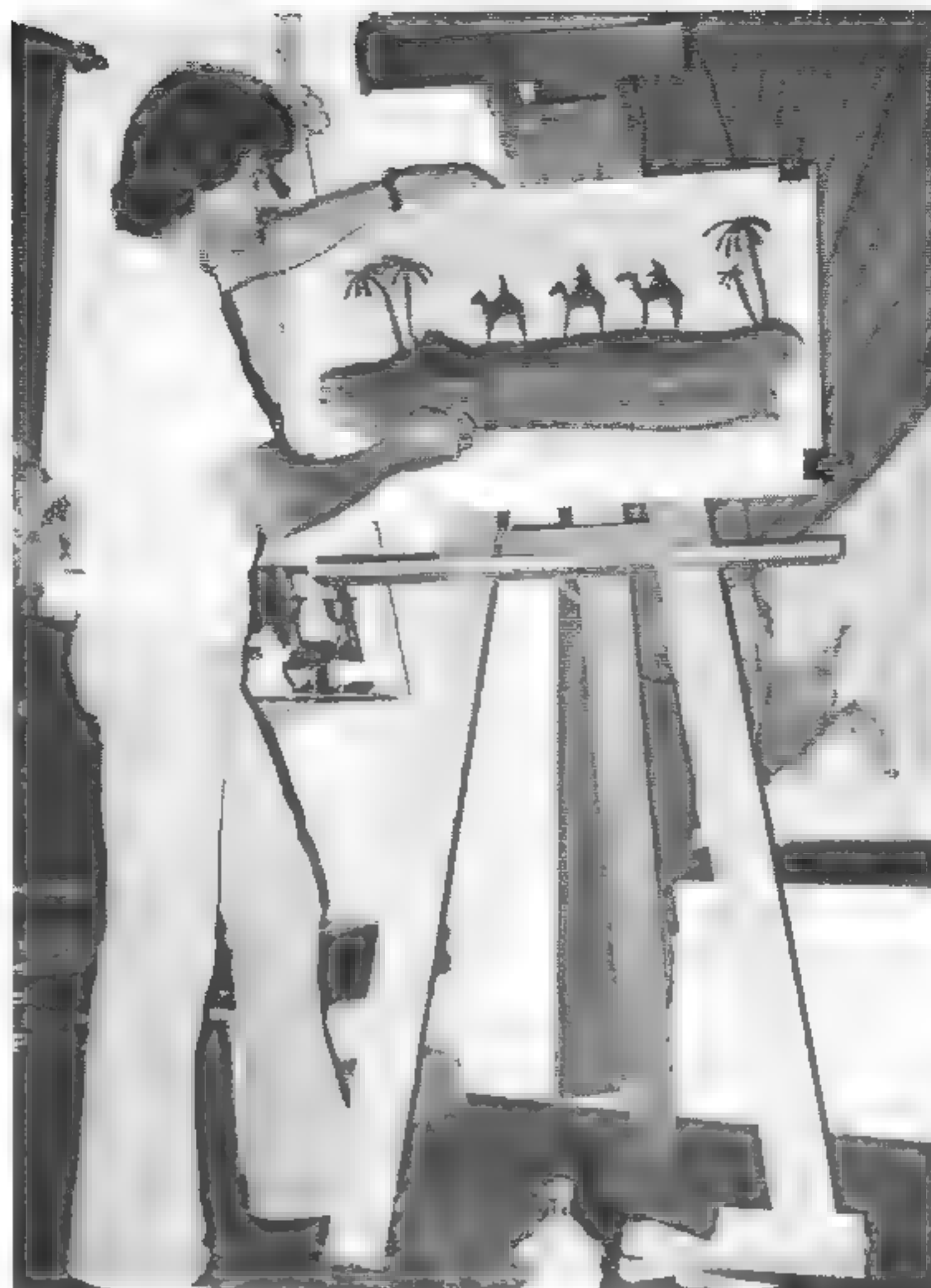
The 14-year GSU employee uses his artistic talent to spread the message of Christianity by illustrating Bible stories.

He and his wife, Vivian, started doing "chalk talks" about two years ago for children's services at Community Church, a non-denominational church in Orange, Texas. As Mrs. Blevins would relate a Bible story, he would draw several pictures. The drawings, usually made on newsprint with colored chalk, were then given to children in the audience.

"After we had been doing chalk talks for a year," Blevins recalls, "we began to do larger sanctuary presentations during the Sunday evening worship service. We take a Bible teaching, such as love or trust, and share how we have learned some of these things in our lives—for instance, how we've learned to rely on God for our needs in everyday life." For that particular message, Blevins sketches the "lilies of the field"—a fluorescent depiction that is illuminated in black light for a dramatic effect.

Blevins' artistic achievements are not limited to chalk. The serviceman-1st class has been asked to exhibit some pieces in other mediums at the Orange Library. He reveals that he is considering doing a series of pictures on line work.

Admittedly awed by people's reactions to his chalk art, Blevins says, "People take pictures of my drawings and some want to buy them, but since these (his most



recent "chalk talks") are done on cloth, I just take them home and wash the cloth."

While the presentations require a lot of preparation, Blevins insists that the final production is "always different than what I practiced." His wife, however, says, "They're always better."

Audiences must agree with her since the couple has received invitations to churches as far away as Houston and Baton Rouge.

Blevins says he has always drawn pictures and painted, including painting some of the first tee shirts when he was a youth. "It just goes to show," he smiles, "if you have an idea and don't capitalize on it, someone else will before long."

The GSUer teaches art classes, works as a resource worker in the West Orange-Cove School District, where some of the couple's nine children are enrolled, serves as president of the Art Guild and sells some of his work.

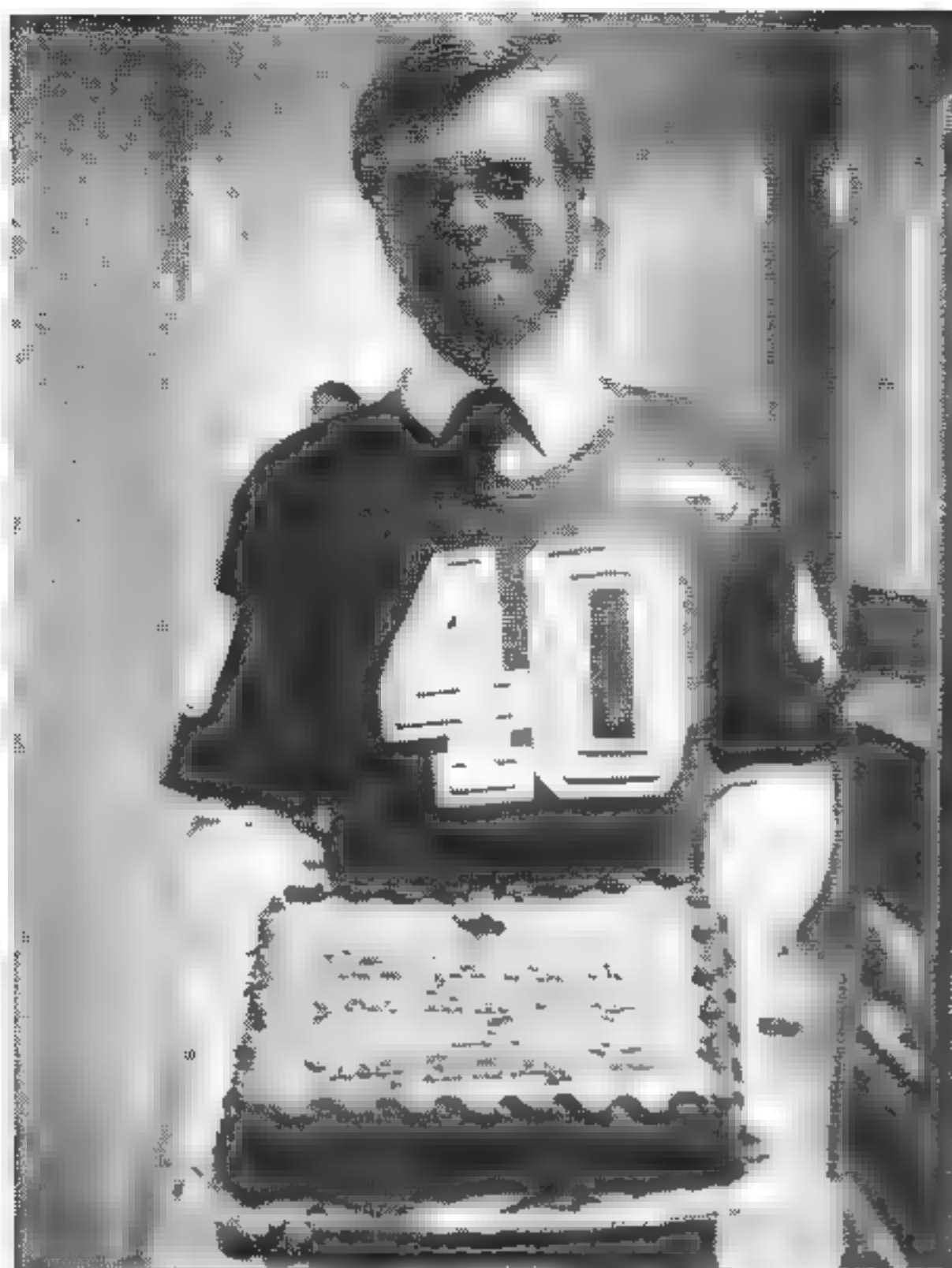
"The problem I have had is that I can't sell my art—not because of

no demand, but because my wife always wants to hang it in the house," Blevins laments jokingly.

Many of the pictures on those walls are in pencil, although he concedes that he is doing more water color lately because people often prefer color. However, according to one of his fans, his 11-year-old daughter Jennifer, one still life of an ear of corn "looks like it has red and black kernels" even though it is rendered in pencil without any actual color. The brightness of an apple in yet another still life also gives the illusion of color.

Blevins indicates that he could use a little help from other GSUers as he prepares to do his series on line work for the Orange Library exhibit.

"If anyone has any old photographs concerning this, I would like to have the negative or picture," he says. Blevins adds that he will return all such items to the owners.



Conroe employee observes 40th birthday

Earnest "Pete" Dawson, consumer service representative-senior of Conroe, celebrated his 40th birthday recently.

According to Plain Talks Correspondent Nina Wiley, the day before his birthday, Dawson insisted he was in his "late 30s." To mark the transition, his birthday cake, provided by co-workers, proclaimed, "Now you are in your early, early 40s."

Along with the cake—which was done all in black—Dawson received a black tee shirt emblazoned with the number 40.

Baton Rouge GSUers hold fish rodeo

Baton Rouge Division employees held their 4th annual fishing rodeo July 26-27 at Bayou Pigeon. About 21 boats jammed the bayou's public landing at day-break both days, reports Plain Talks Correspondent Adelaide Bankston.

The winners, who were selected according to fish weight per boat, included:

- 1st, Charlie Greer and P.E. Whitehead, both of the substation department, 64 pounds and four ounces.
- 2nd, Terry Ross of the line department and Wayne Hill of the substation department, 39 pounds and six ounces.
- 3rd, Boyd Eisworth and Bobby Sheets, both of the substation department, 32 pounds and five ounces.
- 4th, Wayne Varnado and Lance Nowlin, both of the substation department, 32 pounds and one-half ounce.
- 5th, Rodney Boudreaux of the line department, 31 pounds and one ounce.
- 6th, Ernest Kelly of the Denham Springs line department and Lenelle Juban of the North Boulevard office, 30 pounds and three ounces.
- 7th, Ray Brent and Steve Bourgeois, both of the line department, 28 pounds and nine ounces.
- 8th, Henry Newchurch and Buddy Mullen, both of Port Allen, 22 pounds and 14 ounces.
- 9th, Skip Bremer and Larry Heintz, both of the line department, 21 pounds and one ounce.
- 10th, Jack Winston of the garage and Mike Vicknair of the line department, 19 pounds and 15 ounces.

In addition, Varnado caught the largest single bass, a five-pounder, and Donny Elliott of Gonzales caught the trash fish.



CONTACT leaders meet entertainer at Beaumont meeting

Several Employee CONTACT Program leaders chanced to meet country and western singer Merle Haggard during the August 18-21 leader training session at Beaumont's Holiday Inn.

Haggard was in town for a performance.

Among those meeting Haggard (pictured in the center wearing a casual shirt) were Myra Ponthier of Zachary, Kathy Bourgeois of Orange, Bonnie Duval of Sabine Station and Richard Henson of Conroe. Snapping the picture was D.W. Rutherford of Lewis Creek Station, a Plain Talks correspondent who is also a CONTACT leader.



Orange employee given baby shower

Sue Swiderski, a helper in the T&D line department in Orange, was honored with a surprise baby shower shortly before she began her maternity leave on July 21.

The party was hosted by her co-workers.

Sideliners honor Guidry on retirement anniversary

The Sideliners, a group of retirees from the Lake Charles Division, honored Sabre "Pop" Guidry with a luncheon in an Abbeville restaurant on July 31—the 21st anniversary of his retirement from the company.

Among those congratulating Guidry was Walter House, president of the Lake Charles Division chapter. Mrs. Guidry also attended the event.



Beaumonters host 'urban cowboy' party

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Budd (center) and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Heaner (right) were among the Beaumont employees who attended an August 2nd "Urban Cowboy" party at the Neches Station recreation room.

According to Plain Talks Correspondent Joe Russian, about 30 couples dressed up in Western-style garb for the potluck supper-dance.



Ken Levens honored in Lake Charles

Lake Charles T&D employees recently honored Ken Levens upon his transfer and promotion to a position as project engineer in Beaumont.

During the cake and punch party, Levens received a clock radio.

Carlos Torrans ends 34-year career in Lake Charles

Carlos Torrans recently ended a 34-year with Gulf States in the Lake Charles Division, where he started out as a helper in the T&D Line Department, served as a substation operator and retired as division substation operator.



A native of Fouke, Ark., Torrans, who retired January 1, was honored by co-workers with a party in March, when he was given a cash gift. Shown with Torrans is H.E. Mack, operating superintendent.

Balloons flood Bordeman's office



Charles Bordeman, Beaumont Division accounting superintendent, found himself surrounded by balloons when he reported to work one morning in July.

Co-workers jokingly flooded Bordeman's office in commemoration of his recent promotion to the superintendent's position. Former superintendent Vic Faver recently retired.



Retiree celebrates 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Carroll of Madisonville, Texas, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary May 18 at a reception hosted by their son, R.P. Carroll, and his family of Fairfax, Virginia.

The senior Carroll is a retiree of Gulf States, having worked for the company 41 years before retiring as superintendent in Madisonville in 1969.

ON THE MOVE

Acaldo, Vernon J., Willow Glen, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Adams, Jerald D., Beaumont, to system operator, Beaumont Power Supply.

Adrio, Raymond J., Beaumont, to section head, Beaumont General Services.

Alexander, J. D., Conroe, to serviceman-1st class, T&D Service.

Alfred, Murline, Sulphur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Allen, Katie M., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Allen, Thomas E., Gonzales, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Allison, Theda G., Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Alt, William P., Beaumont, to industrial engineer, Beaumont Division Consumer Services.

Andrus, Scot A., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Antoine, Freddie Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, T & D Line Dept.

Arable, Thomas J., Lafayette, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Arceneaux, William F. Jr., Lake Charles, to helper, T&D Relay Dept.

Arline, Cornelius, Beaumont, to building services foreman, Beaumont General Services.

Aultman, Wallace J., Gonzales, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Bailey, Lanita J., Kountze, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Baker, Betty M., Beaumont, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Bankston, Anita L., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Barber, George, Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Department.

Barnard, Rickey G., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Barnes, John W., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Barnett, Thompson W., Willow Glen, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Barrios, Gillis W., Nelson Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Becker, David K., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Becker, Ronald T., Conroe, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Beckes, Randy L., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Belair, Edward J., Jennings, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Bell, Jim W., Baton Rouge, to storekeeper, Storeroom.

Bienvenu, Morris J., Lafayette, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Blackwell, Diane M., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Bolyard, Penny M., Port Arthur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Bond, Beulah S., Mid County, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Boring, Charles, Navasota, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Boswell, George W., Silsbee, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Bourque, Gregory W., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Boyd, David M., Louisiana Station, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Boyd, Earl R. Jr., Zachary, to helper, T&D Dept.

Braud, Randy M., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Brock, Mary S., Somerville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Brooks, William L., Beaumont, to supervisor-community & institutional programs, Beaumont System Consumer Services.

Brookshear, Robert D., Beaumont, to supervisor-economic analysis & corporate modeling, Beaumont Corporate Planning.

Broussard, Earl J., formerly of Lafayette, to manager-governmental affairs Louisiana, Baton Rouge Public Affairs.

Brown, Joe D., formerly of Sabine Station, to piping & welding inspector, Fossil Projects, Nelson Coal Site.

Brown, Lydia D., Baton Rouge, to consumer service representative senior, Division Consumer Services.

Bryan, Brandon C., Beaumont, to executive assistant, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Buller, Matthew P., Nelson Station, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cahal, Jerold E., Denham Springs, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Calfee, Connie S., Conroe, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Canfield, Gregory M., Baton Rouge, to relayman-1st class, T&D Relay Dept.

Carr, Randy C., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Carson, Albert J., Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Carter, Patricia S., Dayton, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Case, Michael S., Formerly of Beaumont, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production, Neches Station.

Cason, Clopton L. Jr., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Causey, Tony M., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Gas Dept.

Chaisson, Patricia A., Lafayette, to engineering helper, T&D Engineering.



Chauvin, David W., Lake Charles-Nelson Station, to engineering assistant, Plant Production.

Childress, Ronald D., Nelson Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cole, Alene A., Woodville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Collins, Virginia W., Silsbee, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Cook, Archie D., Conroe, to utility worker II, T&D Storeroom.

Cooley, Walter K., Anahuac, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Cormier, Hubert E. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Cormier, Paul A., Beaumont, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cotton, Oran E., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Coye, Floyd W., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Creekbaum, Wade J., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cropper, Steven J., Port Arthur, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Cunningham, Helen L., Sour Lake, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Daigle, Joseph L. Jr., Beaumont, to storekeeper, T&D Storeroom.

Darr, Randall L., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

David, Jack H., Silsbee, to district accounting supervisor, Silsbee Division Accounting.

Davis, Edward L., Lake Charles, to apprentice, T&D Department.

Dean, Chad D., Lake Charles, to garage mechanic-2nd class, T&D Garage.

Derise, Donna G., Orange, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Deselle, Glenn R., Louisiana Station, to turbine/water plant operator, Plant Production.

Deskin, Donald B., Nelson Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Dickschat, Betty T., Navasota, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Dinkins, T.J., Cleveland, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Dodge, Ray S., Baton Rouge, to pipeman apprentice, Gas Dept.

Dowell, Betty C., to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

DuBose, George K., Beaumont, to supervisor-credit & collections, Beaumont Division Accounting.

Dumond, Clayton J., Lafayette, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Duncan, Mark D., Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Duncan, Thomas W., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Durden, Linda B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Durflinger, Henry R., Nelson Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Easterling, Don A., Zachary, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Else, Ronnie R., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic helper, T&D Garage.

English, Allen L., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

English, Mitchell P., Port Arthur, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Farris, Gary W., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Fernandez, James, Mid County, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Fontenot, Larry P., Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Fontenot, Michael W., Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

Ford, James T., Port Arthur, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

Forte, Roger L., Gonzales, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

Fortenberry, Billie M., Gonzales, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Fox, William E., Dayton, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Franklin, Michael R., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production.

Freeman, James C. II, Willow Glen, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Gajeske, Robert W., Conroe, to building technician, T&D Building & Grounds.

Galmore, Reginald E., Beaumont, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Girola, Dino D., formerly of Lake Charles, to accountant, Accounting Services, Nelson Coal Site.

Girouard, Kent D., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-1st class, T&D Substation.

Gonzales, Juan J., Beaumont, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Goodwin, Darrell W., Jennings, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Goodwin, Gerald D., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Gorney, Joe, formerly of Conroe, to system operator, Beaumont Power Supply.

Gourley, Reubin D., Louisiana Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Graham, Van E., Dayton, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Greathouse, Charles A., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Greiffenstein, Kim, Conroe, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

ON THE MOVE

Grimes, Jimmie L., Beaumont, to director-energy operations & results, Power Supply.

Grimes, Roy E., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Grimmett, Carl T., Lake Charles, to section head, T&D Engineering

Guillot, Joseph R. Jr., Conroe, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Gutierrez, Gustavo, Huntsville, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept

Guzzardo, John C., Louisiana Station, to repairman 3rd class, Plant Production.

Hall, Timothy J., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Hamilton, Donald E., formerly of Beaumont, to superintendent, Plant Production, Louisiana Station.

Hamm, Robert M., Port Arthur, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Hargrove, Myrna L., Port Allen, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Harmon, Murry R., Willow Glen, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Harper, Danita M., Woodville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Harrison, Virginia M., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Haynes, Brenda H., Beaumont, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Herbert, Randall, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

Helton, Neva S., Corrigan, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Helton, Timothy R., Conroe, to engineering assistant, T&D Engineering

Herford, Constance W., Nelson Station, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

Hill, Sammie J., Conroe, to serviceman-1st class, T&D Service.

Hills, Barry, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

Holmes, Cindy L., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Holmes, J. W., formerly of Baton Rouge, to nuclear training representative, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Site.

Hooker, Lee D., Nelson Station, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Horton, William C., Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production

Houston, William, Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Howard, Irwin G., Louisiana Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Hudson, Joan M., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design

Istre, Allen J. Jr., Jennings, to district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

James, Marvin B., Gonzales, to utility foreman, T&D Line Dept.

James, Tamara A., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Jarreau, Carolyn R., Vidor, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Jarrell, Carl E., Baton Rouge, to pipeman-2nd class, Gas Dept.

Johnson, Ralph, Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Jones, Carliss M., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Division Accounting.

Jones, Johnnie J., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Jones, Terry L., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic helper, T&D Garage

Jordan, Delbert E., Beaumont, to second fireman, Plant Production

Jordan, Mark G., Port Arthur, to lineman 2nd class, T&D Line Dept.

Kelly, Ruth E., Beaumont, to confidential records clerk, Beaumont Accounting Services.

King, Mark B., Beaumont, to electrical engineer, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design

King, Sybil D., Denham Springs, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Knowles, Lewis D., Beaumont, to engineer, Beaumont Engineering Design

Krechel, Keith E., Baton Rouge, to storekeeper, T&D Storeroom.

Laborde, Michael J., Beaumont, to engineer, Beaumont System Operations.

LaFleur, Lee D., Lake Charles, to right-of-way representative, T&D Engineering

Lambert, Jeffery W., Willow Glen, to test technician 3rd class, Plant Production

Landua, Jerry L., Navasota, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services

Lang, Glynn E., Beaumont, to EDP project supervisor, Information and Data Services.

Lavergne, Michael R., Nelson Station, to repairman 3rd class, Plant Production.

Lavergne, Vaughn G., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Ledoux, Ernest R., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Lee, Walter E., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Lewis, Renee B., Beaumont, to Beaumont Internal Audits.

Littlefield, Merlin J., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-1st class, T&D Garage.

Living, Van G., Lafayette, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.



Louvier, Louis K., Port Arthur, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Lovely, Carolyn M., Beaumont, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Luneau, Linda B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Lupo, Michael J., Willow Glen, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Luquette, Christopher D., Lafayette, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Marino, Anthony G., Beaumont, to relayman-3rd class, T&D Relay

Marquette, Philip J., Port Allen, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services

Martin, Semmie, Baton Rouge, to meterman 2nd class, Gas Dept.

Mason, Bobby J., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Mattc, Michael W., Nelson Station, to repairman 3rd class, Plant Production

Mayrant, Susan W., Huntsville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

McAdams, Debra V., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

McAndrew, Billie M., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

McCall, Patricia N., Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

McGhee, Charley L., Baton Rouge, to pipeman 2nd class, Gas Dept.

McGraw, Marilyn H., Beaumont, to stenographer-executive, Beaumont Public Affairs.

McKowen, Adolphus D., Zachary, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Melancon, Terry L., Baton Rouge, to shop foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Mencer, Eroll W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Mercer, Gerald W., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

Merwin, George E., Port Arthur, to garage mechanic 2nd class, T&D Garage

Miller, Thomas M., Nelson Station, to electrician 1st class, Plant Production

Mitchell, Edd L. Jr., Cleveland, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Mitchell, Steven E., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Mitchell, William H., formerly of Willow Glen, to engineer, Beaumont System Production.

Mock, Ernest D., Conroe, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Moore, Adrian G. Jr., Louisiana Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Moreau, Ruth B., Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Morgan, Stephen L., Port Allen, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

Morgan, Thomas G. Jr., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Morley, Karen L., Huntsville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Morrison, Bryan J., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Mosley, Paul E., New Caney, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Mouton, Polo P., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-2nd class, T&D Service Dept.

Mullins, Richard D., Orange, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Murphy, Joyce M., Dayton, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Nachlinger, Sandra W., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, System Consumer Services.

Nash, Carl T. Jr., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Nash, Doris T., Trinity, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Ned, Reginald H., Port Arthur, to helper, T&D Dept.

Nelson, Gerald E., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Newton, John W., Beaumont, to general substation foreman, Beaumont T&D Substation.

Nicholas, Gary W., Beaumont, to fleet administrator, Beaumont System Operations.

Ogden, Frankie J., Woodville, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Oliver, Eddie, Nelson Station, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Oudkirk, John D., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Papion, Marilyn C., Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Parden, Rodney E., Willow Glen, to insulator-1st class, Plant Production.

Pavia, Anthony L. III, Sabine Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Perkins, Willie J., Zachary, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

Plant, Roberta W., Conroe, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services

Ponthier, Myra L., Zachary, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Pope, David G., Beaumont, to accountant, T&D Operations.

Powell, George R., New Caney, to collector, Division Accounting.

Prince, Mark A., Sabine Station, to equipment operator, Plant Production

Prince, Ronald J., Port Arthur, to serviceman-4th class, T&D Service Dept.

Line

ON THE MOVE

Pruett, Glenda G., Port Arthur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Raney, Sammie P., Willow Glen to test foreman, Plant Production

Rathcke, Terry A., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Raven, Hugh A., Gonzales, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Ray, Gerald L., Beaumont, to mechanical engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Ray, Sandra D., Sulphur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Recla, Steven D., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-2nd class, T&D Substation.

Reed, Kathleen G., Port Arthur, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Ringo, John, Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D Dept.

Roberts, Alvin E. Jr., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Roberts, Jeanette B., Denham Springs, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Rodgers, Earnest W., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Russell, Michael W., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

St. Julien, Jason, Orange, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

Sam, Larry W., Port Arthur, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production

Savoy, Loretta D., Church Point, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Seals, Kerry M., Port Arthur, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Shackelford, Cynthia A., Port Arthur, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Shuff, Brenda C., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Simon, Phyllis I., Port Arthur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Smith, David L., Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

Smith, Max L., Beaumont, to transportation & maintenance superintendent, System Operations.

Sonnier, Matthew L., Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Sparks, Rodney L., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, T&D Service Dept.

Spears, Kenneth W., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Sprague, Sharon B., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Stabler, Harlan C., Conroe, to utility foreman, T&D Meter.

Stanley, Richard L., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Stanton, Glen A., Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Stewart, Robert L., Lake Charles, to utility foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Sumrall, Carolyn B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Swope, Michael, Orange, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

Sylvester, Louis E., Baton Rouge, to heavy equipment foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Taylor, Douglas J., Lafayette, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

Taylor, Richard K., Conroe, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Thibodeaux, Morris R., Baton Rouge, to communications foreman, T&D Communications.

Thomasee, Russell C., Lafayette, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Thompkins, Ardie O., Baton Rouge, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Thompson, Elmer A., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Tinsley, Wanda H., Madisonville, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Tolliver, George Jr., Orange, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.



Tompley, Joseph E., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Towers, James P., formerly of Baton Rouge, to manager-governmental affairs federal, Beaumont Public Affairs.

Trump, Edward C., formerly of Sabine Station, to engineer, Beaumont System Production.

Tullier, Gary P., Port Arthur, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production

Van Osdell, James C., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Vavasseur, Marie A., Port Allen, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Vick, Jerry W., Conroe, to materials coordinator, Conroe System Operations

Victorian, David J., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Vincent, Percy J., Salsbee, to senior district service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Vincent, Stafford P., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Waldrep, Judith F., Mid County, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Walhood, Ben P. Jr., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

Walker, Michael B., Conroe, to substation mechanic-2nd class, T&D Substation.

Watkins, James D., formerly of Louisiana Station, to general superintendent-Louisiana generation, Baton Rouge System Production.

Wease, Dusty L., Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Weiland, John B., Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

West, Wanda S., Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Wheat, Patrick M., Denham Springs, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Whitehead, Kelton R., Baton Rouge, to systems supervisor-Louisiana storage & distribution, Baton Rouge Materials Management

Willey, Reba A., Orange, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Williams, Milton R., Orange, to meterman-2nd class, T&D Meter Dept.

Williams, Mitchell L. III, Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D Dept.

Williams, Tracy W., Beaumont, to accountant, Accounting Services.

Williamson, Judge R., Lake Charles, to storekeeper, T&D Storeroom.

Young, Janette C., Jennings, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Young, Louise B., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Zalfen, David J., Louisiana Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Rosemary Vaught: Port Arthur retiree enjoys reminiscing, but considers self a 'vital part of today'

by Susan Gilley
Plain Talks Editor

Some folks seem to dread retirement, while others seem to start anticipating it the day they start to work.

But Rosemary Vaught of Port Arthur says her retirement two years ago at the age of 60 was timed just right.

"I didn't regret retirement, not one bit. I had looked forward to it for too long. I enjoyed every day that I worked, though—I really did!" she exclaims.

She and her husband, Gordon, who is five years older, have most enjoyed the travel opportunities offered by the freedom of retirement.

In mid-summer, Mrs. Vaught was elected president of the year-old Sideliners Club of the Port Arthur Division. Her involvement with the retirees' group and its project of organizing a pictorial history of the division has provided plenty of opportunities for recalling the "old days"—the years from March, 1950, when she joined the company as secretary to the division manager (now known as the division vice president), until March, 1978, when she retired from the same position.

Although Sideliners Club meetings usually feature serious guest speakers—topics have ranged from company retirement benefits to Social Security benefits to probate laws and writing of wills—one recent meeting simply offered members a chance to "visit and gab and talk about old times," Mrs. Vaught notes.

Even so, members informally "talk a lot about being optimistic," she reveals. "We enjoy reminiscing, but we realize that we're a part of the scene today, and a very vital part. We're not asking for a handout—we want to contribute something."



Mrs. Vaught apparently has always been a contributor.

A 1954 edition of *Plain Talks* featured her in "a Gulf Stater's day" series, depicting her as a combination secretary-stenographer-notary public whose job kept her in the know about most company business throughout the division. She even had responsibility for maintaining confidential personnel files and putting out a newsletter prepared by the division manager.

However, her greatest contribution may have been in her philosophy about her job.

"I represented that manager's office and I had to produce—I had to act like I was in his stead," she asserts. "I did everything I could to make his office, his position reflect in a good light."

She continues, "If you work for a man, you should see the good in him—not the bad." Mrs. Vaught describes open criticism of one's co-workers as an act of "betrayal."

Even so, Mrs. Vaught concedes that there are many differences in the way business was handled in the 1950s and the way it is handled today. Her main complaint, she admits, is a diminishment of the old "feeling of family."

Company growth—an increase of from 2,400 employees in 1954 to more than 4,000 today—has contributed heavily to the change,

she theorizes.

"Before, we had picnics together and everybody knew each other. When you work together and you play together, you just get along together better," she insists.

She thinks the Sideliners Club is one good way to preserve such fellowship. Membership is not only open to retirees, but also to the spouses of deceased retirees.

The oldest members of the Port Arthur chapter include Marie Thorne, 86-year-old widow of L. E. Thorne, a former division manager; Bertha Hirsch, whose husband, Leo, was a superintendent of the old Lakeside Power Plant that was dismantled during the 1950s; A. D. "Happy" McMillan, 78, a former general line foreman; and C. M. Scott, 78, a former division manager.

Mrs. Vaught, who was educated in local schools as well as at Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville, Tx., and Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., had worked with the Jefferson County (Texas) county clerk's office, the Houston school system and the First Methodist Church of Texarkana, Texas, before coming to Gulf States.

She and her husband now make their home in Port Arthur, although they spent their first year of retirement in a 31-foot trailer on their lot at Toledo Bend Lake. Later the couple sold the trailer and bought a 13-foot travel trailer that they have taken on trips through Arkansas, Missouri, Florida and the Texas Valley country. They were to spend most of September traveling toward Maine, viewing the fall foliage.

They also have two dogs, a Dachshund named Gigi and a terrier named Prissy, who "go everywhere we go."

GSU's CONTACT couple: Carliss and Les make it tough for other utilities to "keep up with the Joneses"

by Rick Harvin

Jones.

The name doesn't usually bring anything special to mind.

Yet at least two Gulf Staters who answer to that name are very special. In fact, in one respect, they are unique *nationwide*.

Les and Carliss Jones, who both work in the company's Beaumont Division, are leaders in an employee communications program known as CONTACT. Through CONTACT, leaders from across the system learn about various subjects, then discuss what they've learned with fellow employees within their work area.

The programs are conducted with the aid of K. W. Huskey Associates, a communications consulting firm based in California. Ken Huskey, head of the operation, commented on the special "Jones Gang."

"They are unique. Les and Carliss make up the *only* husband-wife team in the country, as far as this type of utility company communications program goes," Huskey notes. Huskey runs CONTACT-type sessions for nine utility firms other than GSU.

How did this team get started in CONTACT? Les, who is a senior engineering assistant working out of the Beaumont Service Center, was the first Jones to become a CONTACT leader. At the time, the 11-year GSU veteran was working in the survey area for the company.

"I immediately said, 'Yes,' as I considered it a break. I'd get to do something that sounded like something I *wanted* to do," Les remarks.

That was in 1978. The previous year, Les had another good opportunity when he had met Carliss McNeely at the Beaumont church they both attended.



"Her father was the preacher, and Carliss was the church pianist. I met her because I was singing in the choir and on solos as well. We were married in July of 1977." That was the start of the Jones team at home. It soon became the Jones team at GSU, too.

"Les got me a GSU job application, and I turned it in," Carliss says.

"I got her the application, and she did the rest," Les agrees. She became a clerk in credit and collections in the main GSU office in downtown Beaumont.

Then came CONTACT, and Les faced his first leaders' training session, where leaders get the facts on whatever topic the employees had voted on previously. Les remembered that training vividly.

And what about Carliss' introduction to CONTACT? "I came in on CONTACT 8, the one on nuclear power," she answers. "Our group had lost a leader through promotion (the program is for classified employees), and Joyce Viltz, another leader in the area, asked me if I'd be interested. I said, 'Yes.'"

According to Carliss, her first training session was nerve-racking.

"I was terrified—I held a tissue in my hands for all four days."

"Yes," Les confirms, "she tore that tissue to shreds because she was so nervous."

Neither Carliss nor Les had ever done anything quite like

CONTACT before.

"I've talked to all types of customers on the phone, and I think that helped prepare me for being a CONTACT leader," Carliss replies. She was recently transferred to the division office on Calder Avenue, but she still talks to customers there.

"One of the reasons I left college was that I had to take a speech course," she adds.

Les says he had "never taken speech, never gotten up to speak before a crowd, never participated in anything like CONTACT."

When it comes to being before people, the CONTACT program takes its leaders through a variety of experiences, including making a presentation in front of a camera, then watching it on videotape so that each leader can improve. Les had his opinions about the camera.

Les presents his meetings to storeroom personnel, the metering department and other "service-type" employees. Carliss' audiences differ in that they are usually office personnel, including secretaries and clerks. Yet there are challenges in both groups.

"I have one person who likes to start arguments just for the sake of arguing," Les says. "I just let him talk until he's finished."

Carliss recalls one of her problems. "I had one lady who just liked to talk, but she wouldn't stay on the subject. I tried to guide her back to the subject."

Meet your correspondent: Nina Wiley of Conroe

Nina Wiley is a transplanted Yankee whose family simply tired of the harsh winters in their native western new York and relocated to Conroe 14 years ago.

Mrs. Wiley, who has been a Plain Talks correspondent for a little more than a year, claims that she couldn't have been happier about the move. "I just like it around here," she asserts. "I like the people. They seem like they're a whole lot friendlier, although a lot of them are Yankees, too! I like the weather mostly, I guess."

It did not take long for Mrs. Wiley and her husband of 24

years, Tom, to adapt to life in GSU's Western Division. The two are avid Houston Oilers fans. "This is 'blue country,' you know," she points out, adding that football is her favorite spectator sport.

In her spare time, Mrs. Wiley also enjoys baking bread for the three of her four children remaining at home. They are Mark, an 18-year-old senior at Conroe High School, Jani, a 14-year-old freshman at Conroe High, and Todd, 12, a seventh grader at Travis Junior High.

The couple's married daughter,



23-year-old Cindy Alire, has a 3-year-old daughter of her own, Braen.

Mrs. Wiley, who is a departmental clerk in the Transmission and Distribution Department, went to work for GSU seven years ago. She says she has worked ever since she graduated from high school.

Travel accident plan offers protection for all employees

by Marshall Gordon
Employee Benefits Specialist

Nobody likes to think about what would happen to their family if they suddenly were to die or suffer a disabling injury, but possibilities like that *do* need to be considered.

For employees of Gulf States, the company's travel accident plan offers substantial benefits for survivors if an employee should die accidentally while traveling on company business.

Significant disability and dismemberment benefits can also be paid as a part of the plan, which is with Banker's Life and Casualty Co. of Chicago.

All employees are covered on the date they begin work, with the only other requirement being that system employees must be traveling outside the limits of the city to which they are assigned and division employees must be traveling outside the boundaries of their division.

There are four events which can enable an employee's survivors or other beneficiaries to draw from the accidental death benefit. The benefit totals \$100,000 for all

fulltime, active employees who die as a result of an accident while traveling on company business, including the first 48 hours of personal business during the business trip, as well as for non-employee guests of the company and certified aircraft pilots injured accidentally while traveling on the business or invitation of the company. It pays \$50,000 for company employees who are injured accidentally during a bomb scare at their work place if they were asked to remain to search for the bomb.

To qualify for the principal sum to be paid to a beneficiary, death must have occurred within 365 days of the accident.

Sometimes the death benefit might be less than scheduled. This would happen, for example, if several employees were to die in a single aircraft accident. The most benefit that would be paid to all the injured parties would be \$1.5 million. If the benefits exceeded that amount when computed individually, the benefit would be divided proportionately

from the total.

Employee handbooks contain detailed information about designation of beneficiaries and payments for dismemberment and disability insurance. Those who want to obtain more information may consult their handbook or contact someone in the benefits section of the Human Resources Department.

Payments for dismemberment insurance vary, depending upon the limb or faculty affected, and range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

If a person happens to lose limbs that would qualify under more than one provision, the benefit will be paid only for the greatest loss. Those who are paid benefits under the dismemberment insurance are then terminated from the insurance plan.

DOE monitors home heated geothermally

Dorothy Mott has period furniture, antique pianos and rare *objets d'art* decorating her home in Boise, Idaho. She also has 28 thermometers.

Every morning, Mrs. Mott hurries through her turn-of-the-century mansion to check those thermometers—one in each room—and records temperatures. That's because the Mott home has attracted the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) along with admirers of history and architecture. Geothermal water—water warmed by the natural heat of the earth—heats the home and DOE researchers want to learn more about it.

According to a DOE news release, way back in 1902, builders of the Mott home linked its heating system to the Boise Hot and Cold Water Company. Eventually, about 400 homes joined that system—now known as the Warm Springs Reservoir District. Between the 1930s and 1950s—when other options were cheap—many of these Boise homes turned away from geothermal energy.

But the Mott home has used geothermal heating continuously, and its original system is still operating with only minor modifications. Now, with spiraling energy costs, many Boiseans are looking to geothermal energy as an idea whose time has returned. DOE has sponsored geothermal planning, assessment and facilities development programs in Boise, hoping the city can develop a modern, community-wide geothermal heating system.

Idaho has strong geothermal potential throughout the state and that fits well with Idaho's agricultural economy. Geothermal energy could be used, for example, to dehydrate a portion of the Idaho potato crop and to sanitize equipment in food processing plants.

Near Malta, Idaho, DOE runs the Raft River Geothermal Research Site to conduct experiments in using moderate temperature water (300 degrees Fahrenheit) to generate electricity. A 1979 experiment at that site successfully used geothermal water to produce alcohol. The researchers used geothermal fluid in two ways—for heat and for water needed in the fermentation. The geothermal potential in Boise is impressive. Geothermal space heating involves no complicated technology and is almost maintenance-free.

Boise's warm water comes out of the ground at 170 degrees Fahrenheit—an ideal temperature for standard heating units.

For their huge home—which has no insulation in the walls—the Motts have paid \$40 for heat during their coldest winter months when the nighttime temperatures often dipped to zero.

EPRI sponsors test of shale oil residue

Shale oil residue was to be burned as a fuel for utility power generation for the first time ever this summer in a test that was to be conducted for the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) at the Long Island Lighting Co. in Island Park, New York.

About 130,000 gallons of shale oil residual, which was the lowest grade of oil produced from a shale oil refining operation, was to be burned for the first time in a utility combustion turbine. An estimated 22 megawatts of electricity was expected to be generated while the four to five hour burns were underway.

The tests are intended to provide the electric utility industry with valuable information on the effects of burning shale residual. Among the major objectives of the tests are determination of the characteristics of emissions generated from burning the fuel, the effects on the generator per-

formance and hardware and the handling problems associated with burning a high melting point fuel in a combustion turbine.

United Technologies Corp. and Long Island Lighting Co., serving as the host utility for the project, were under contract to EPRI to conduct the tests.

Henry Schreiber, the EPRI manager heading up the project, said he expected the fuel to burn well and did not anticipate any major surprises.

Schreiber said the oil could, however, cause the machinery to run at higher temperatures than it normally does when burning natural gas or light, number two fuel oil.

The 50 hours of testing was to consist of no more than four to five hours of testing on any given day, and was expected to produce about 22 megawatts of electricity for the utility while in operation.

Successful completion of the tests could mean that the only major obstacle to utility use of shale oil would be the availability of the fuel, Schreiber said.

The sample of shale oil to be used in the test was processed several years ago by Standard Oil of Ohio in a Department of Defense project. A portion of the residual product from the refining of oil was purchased at the time by EPRI.

History shows that one vote can make a difference

Your vote won't make any difference on November 4, will it?

One solitary ballot won't decide whether Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan or John Anderson will be elected President, will it?

Why take the time to cast a vote that will be wasted?

These are, unfortunately, the opinions held by many men and women in the United States. But your vote is important.

A short history lesson is in order:

The time is 1783, the place Philadelphia. Thirty-nine delegates from the original 13 American colonies have gathered in the new nation's capital to make some important decisions.

When agenda item No. 2 comes up for discussion, the meeting breaks up in chaos with bitter exchanges between the delegates and rumors of a duel. The Virginia delegation discusses a walkout but eventually decides to stay and fight for its point of view.

Finally the issue is decided: By a one-vote 20 to 19 margin, it is decreed that the national language will be English instead of German.

Because of one vote, we eat chicken-fried steak instead of wiener schnitzel.

The chances are, of course, that one vote will not decide this year's presidential election. But a vote here and a vote there definitely could alter the outcome.

The 1980 elections will be crucial for all segments of the energy business, including electric utilities. The President and congressmen elected on November 4 will be called on to make some tough decisions that could give the nation an energy policy—finally.

There is no national agenda for solving our energy problems. And, even if Washington ever can agree on one, there is no guarantee that it will be a good policy.

Each GSU employee can help ensure that the President and Congress formulate a sound energy program by carefully studying the issues and how the candidates stand on them.

Find out how the candidates view such issues as relaxation of Sections 301 (a) and (b) of the Fuel Use Act, which generally would prohibit existing power plants from burning natural gas after 1990.

Ask them if they think railroads should be able to charge as much as they want for transporting coal even though there is no other way to ship it.

Seek out candidates' view on nuclear power issues. Find out if they support nuclear power as being necessary to help solve our energy problems.

Scrutinize the candidates and the issues and then go vote.

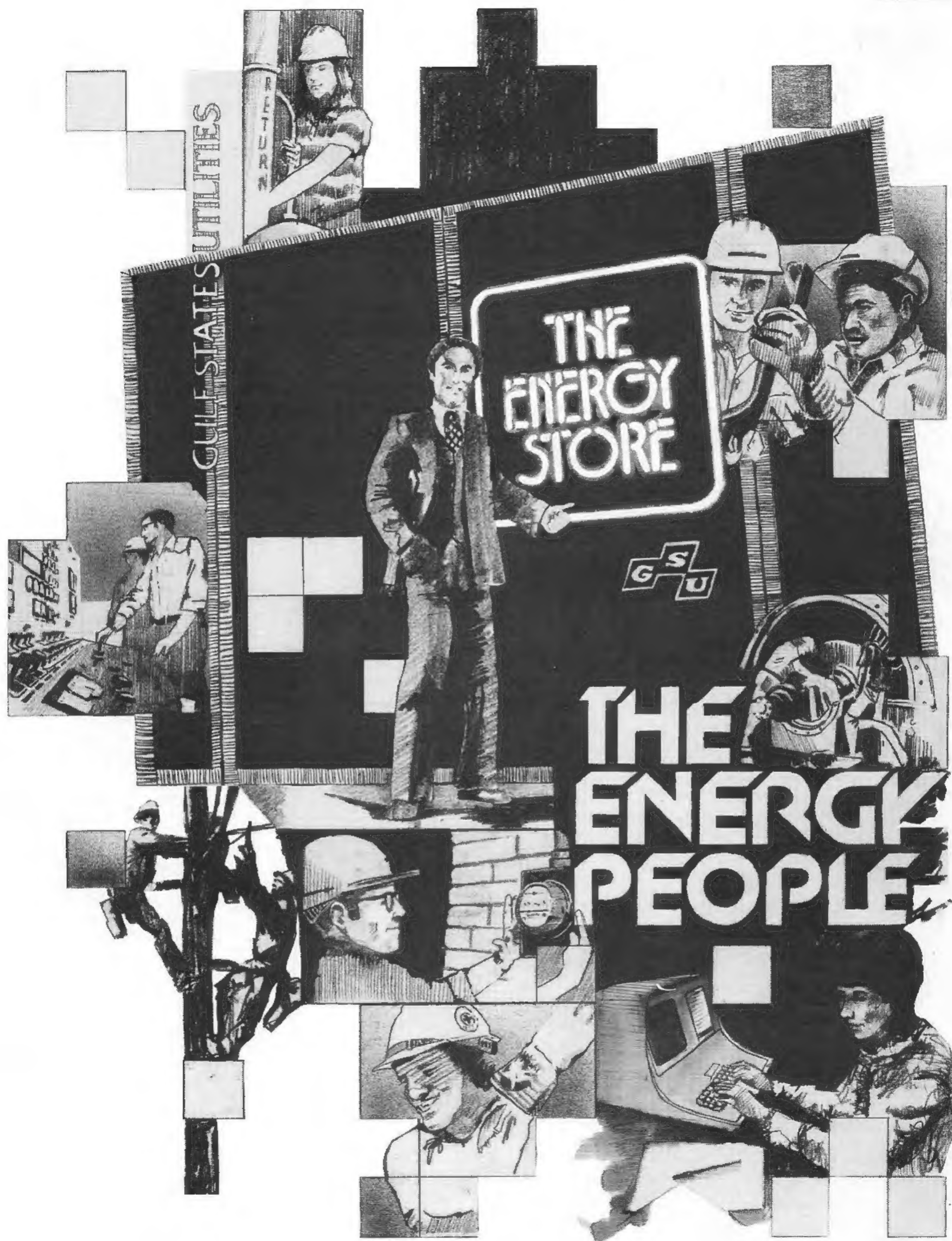
There's a lot more at stake than the national language.

by **Kim McMurray**

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uels like oil and natural gas needed to make electricity at Gulf States Utilities are not limitless. They aren't cheap either. Effective conservation of energy will reduce the amount of natural resources used for electrical energy now being wasted.

But we need your help. GSU has an ongoing program to help customers save energy (and money) at home. Visit the GSU Energy Store at Parkdale Mall for more information. The Energy People at GSU work for tomorrow each day.

**THE
ENERGY
PEOPLE**
GULF STATES UTILITIES